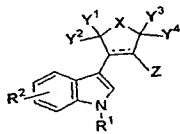
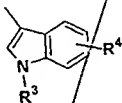


20. (New) An inhibitor of apoptosis or necrosis comprising an indole compound according to formula (I):



(I)

wherein X represents an oxygen atom or $N-R^5$; Z represents a halogen atom or



R^1 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an acyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy- or aryloxycarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthiocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aminocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group which is substituted or

unsubstituted, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, or a hydroxyl group; R^2 and R^4 each represents substituent(s) on an indole ring, in which number and position (2-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-position as position number of the indole ring) of the substituent(s) and kinds of the substituent(s) may be the same or different, and represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an acyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy- or aryloxycarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthiocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aminocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthio group which is substituted or unsubstituted, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group which is substituted or unsubstituted, or a halogen atom; R^5 represents an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which

is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxyl group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an amino group which is substituted or unsubstituted, a hydroxyl group, or a hydrogen atom; Y^1 and Y^2 , and Y^3 and Y^4 each independently represent two hydrogen atoms or a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl group, or are combined to form a carbonyl group; and R^1 and R^2 , R^1 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , or R^2 and R^4 may be combined to form a hydrocarbon chain or a hydrocarbon chain containing hetero atom(s) which is substituted or unsubstituted; and in the formula, the bond accompanying a dotted line represents a double bond or a single bond, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) A composition comprising the compound of claim 20, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating a neurodegenerative disease.

23. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating neonatal jaundice.

24. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating myasthenia gravis.

25. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating brain ischemia or delayed neuronal death (DND).

26. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating a disease selected from the group consisting of ischemic heart disease, viral myocarditis, autoimmune myocarditis, myocardial disorders, hypertrophic heart, heart failure, and arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy.

27. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating alcoholic hepatitis or viral hepatitis.

28. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating renal diseases.

29. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

30. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating an inflammatory skin disorder, alopecia, or graft versus host disease (GVH).

31. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating radiation disorders, or disorders due to toxic agents.

32. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating sepsis.

33. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating osteomyelo-dysplasia.

34. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating insulin dependent diabetes.

35. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating prion diseases.

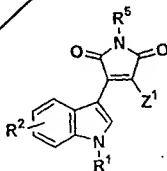
36. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition is useful for treating or preventing functional deficiency of transplanted organs, tissues or cells.

37. (New) A preservative for organs, tissues or cells, comprising the compound of claim 20, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (New) A method for screening for an inhibitor of apoptosis or necrosis, comprising applying an apoptosis- or necrosis-inducing stimulus to primary cultured cells in the presence of a test compound or adding a test compound just after

applying an apoptosis- or necrosis-inducing stimulus, and subsequently evaluating a ratio of apoptosis or necrosis in treated and untreated primary cultured cells.

39. (New) A composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a 2-halo-3-indolylmaleimide compound according to formula (II):



(II)

wherein Z¹ represents a halogen atom; and R¹, R² and R⁵ have the same meaning as in claim 20, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.